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▸ Un libro contra el bloqueo del conocimiento: 'El amor es ley: la revolución de los derechos queer en Cuba'
• Presentación de libro en La Habana contrasta los avances LGBTQI+ cubanos con la represión antitrans en EUA

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STOP STARVING GAZA protests continue

By Stephen Millies

Chris Smalls, founder and former president of the Amazon Labor Union, was welcomed by over a hundred supporters at New York City's JFK airport on Aug. 1 after being kidnapped by the Zionist genocidal regime.

Among those welcoming the hero were members of the New Jersey-based People's Organization for Progress, including its chairperson, Larry Hamm.

Smalls was one of the crew members of the Handala, which was seized in international waters by Israeli forces as the ship was trying to deliver food to Gaza. This was the second vessel belonging to the Freedom Flotilla Coalition that Zionist war criminals hijacked.

The labor leader and activist was the only Black member of Handala's crew and the only one who was beaten by his Israeli kidnappers. Zionism is racism.

Continued on page 2

NEW YORK

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

Founder of Amazon Labor Union Chris Smalls was welcomed by activists in New York City's JFK Airport. Smalls, who had been onboard the Handala, a ship carrying aid to Gaza, was detained and beaten by Zionist forces.

Photo: PAL-Awda

Gulf South activists chained themselves together, blockading the doors to the luxury condo of Citicorp CEO "Genocide Jane" Fraser.

▸ PFLP slams international silence on Gaza ▸ Hezbollah in Lebanon stands against genocide
▸ Day 3 of hunger strike for Gaza in Los Angeles ▸ Baltimore protest supports Chris Smalls

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BALTIMORE: against ICE & police brutality | No more transit fare hikes in NYC! | WNBA and MLB exploit labor | Trump's police-state crackdown

Day 3 of hunger strike for Gaza in historic Placita Olvera

By John Parker

Los Angeles, Aug. 3 – Mass was held on Sunday at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church in Placita Olvera, the historic center of the city. After the service, our group received much attention at the table next to our encampment. We have been participating in a hunger strike against the U.S.-Zionist Holocaust in Gaza.

After Mass, we did not get any of the negative attention that sometimes comes with political work. In fact, it was a beautiful day of solidarity. After seeing the sign – "Stop Starving Gaza – End the Occupation: Money for Jobs / Housing Not Genocide & ICE Raids" – many from the predominantly Mexican and other Latin American communities took our flyer, expressing anger at the truth of the Palestinian people.

Many unhoused people have been camping outside this church. They are very multi-national, like the wider working class: Asian, Black, Latin American, Caribbean, and white. All share the heat of the day and cold of the night – many without tents or blankets. However, sleeping and tents outside of the church are only allowed during the day.

The politicians have met the massive growth of unhoused people in Los Angeles with indifference. They spend millions to direct police and sheriffs' departments to terrorize our neighbors, our children, our Black and Brown communities.

They are hiring militias to silence the people in solidarity with Palestine, who demand an end to the complicity with the genocide in Gaza. But not only that. They are trying to suppress the people who demand an end to the genocidal policies of the Department of Homeland Security and ICE, with the complicity of the LAPD and the Sheriff's Department.

Los Angeles activists engaging in three-day hunger strike for Gaza camp outside Our Lady Queen of Angels Church in Placita Olvera.

Photo by Harriet Tubman Center Center for Social Justice.

A plaque at the church commemorates the history, stating that approximately 693 early residents of Los Angeles were buried in the cemetery. Those remains from 1781 included Mexican, African, Indigenous, Mestizo, and Spanish residents – many of whom were forcibly integrated into the mission system in conditions of forced labor. When the city of L.A. grew, those graves were built over. Los Angeles also has a history of multinational oppression.

Our Lady Queen of Angels graciously allowed the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice to create the 3-day Hunger Strike encampment on church property. They have a history of involvement in the immigration struggle, being involved in the hunger strike that helped to build the 2006 "Great American Boycott" (or "Day Without an Immigrant") that defeated the racist, anti-immigrant Sensenbrenner bill.

Right now, there are 20 people on the 3-Day Hunger Strike, with four fasting at the church. Although we should do little work while fasting, the response makes outreach a joy. The volunteers are incredible, and many people want to sign up for the Harriet Tubman Center. The support of people here keeps us going. #

Protests for Gaza continue

Continued from page 1

The same day, in New York City, demonstrations were held against the deliberate U.S.-Israeli starvation of two million people in Gaza. Organizers included the Shut It Down for Palestine Coalition, the Palestinian Youth Movement and PAL-Awda.

In a morning action organized by PAL-Awda, activists chained themselves to the doors of the Egyptian mission to the UN as supporters chanted "Starving children can't wait, open up the Rafah gate." It took the NYPD nearly two hours to cut the chains and arrest the protesters.

Continued on page 3

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Baltimore, Aug. 5 – Peoples Power Assembly activists demonstrated outside Amazon Warehouses in support of Amazon labor union leader and Palestine solidarity activist, Chris Smalls. They also demanded that Amazon cut ties with the Zionist government.

SLL photo

Baltimore protesters support Chris Smalls and say 'stop starving Gaza'

By Sharon Black

The Peoples Power Assembly gathered in front of Amazon Warehouses at Holabird and Broening Highway. Called as a noise demonstration, activists beat on drums and played the bugle to garner attention from workers during shift change at the two warehouses.

The action was called to support Chris Smalls, an Amazon labor leader who participated in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla aboard the Handala, which set sail to deliver food to starving Palestinians. Smalls was detained and arrested by the IOF (Israeli Occupation Forces), along with 21 other activists, but was singled out as the only Black member of the Flotilla and choked, kicked and assaulted while in Israeli custody.

The group also demanded that Amazon shut down "Project Nimbus" and all other contracts and investments with the apartheid government of Israel. The Israeli military uses Amazon's "Project Nimbus" to automate the software it uses to operate their weapons systems that target and kill Palestinians. "Instead of investing in genocide, pay workers a $30 minimum wage, full time benefits and make safety a priority," organizers proclaimed. #

Protests for Gaza continue

Continued from page 2

The action was one of many around the world demanding that Gaza's Rafah gate on its border with Egypt be opened for food and medical supplies. In a statement, PAL-Awda also called on Egypt to stop buying stolen Palestine gas from the Zionist regime and Chevron and stop buying arms from U.S. corporations that arm the Zionist war machine.

At noon, Palestinian solidarity activists joined community activists from Texas and Louisiana to protest outside the global headquarters of Citibank in lower Manhattan. The Youth Climate Finance Alliance was an organizer of the action.

The marchers focused on Citi's financing of fossil fuel projects in the U.S. Gulf South as well as the bank's direct involvement in Zionist genocide in Gaza. Citi loaned the racist state of "Israel" $2.5 billion to purchase the U.S. F35s now bombing the children of Gaza. That loan is being repaid with U.S. taxpayer money.

Speakers, including elders and children, described the environmental poisoning, lifelong illnesses and premature death Citi-financed fracking projects inflict on their communities. They then marched to the luxury condo of Citicorp CEO "Genocide Jane" Fraser, where other Gulf South activists had chained themselves together, blockading the doors. The NYPD, always eager to serve the bankers, sent its brutal Strategic Response Group to make arrests. But the condo building was shut down for at least two hours.

The Manhattan condo is one of several residences Fraser owns around the country. She pulled down $34.5 million last year while Citicorp – with $2.5 trillion in assets – is the biggest U.S. bankster in Israel and is vital to its war purchases.

Later that day, protesters led by the Palestinian Youth Movement rallied outside the consulates of Egypt and Jordan before marching from the UN to "Columbus" Circle.

Earlier in the week, on July 29, activists protested outside a conference of states led by imperialist France and the lackey Saudi regime, calling for a "two-state" solution sometime in the distant future. The conference made no demands on the Zionist state or the U.S., but demanded that Palestinian freedom fighters surrender. Gaza needs food and urgent medical assistance – not Bantustans like those in apartheid South Africa.

Outside the Saudi mission, protesters confronted Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Sarhan bin Said, who was there for the conference. Just three months ago, the Saudi Kingdom hosted Donald Trump and 30 U.S. CEOs, including Genocide Jane Fraser. The Saudi royals pledged nearly $1 trillion in contracts to Citi, Boeing, Palantir, Nvidia, BlackRock, and other U.S. corporations directly involved in the Gaza genocide.

Also on Aug. 1, Jewish Voice for Peace elders held a sit-in at the office of pro-genocide New York Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer.

On Saturday, Aug. 2, a demonstration called by Within Our Lifetime marched from City Hall to Grand Central Station. And a Sunday rally for Gaza by the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) drew a large crowd to Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza.

All the marches were greeted with visible and audible support from pedestrians and drivers as they marched through the streets. Millions are outraged at the starvation in Gaza. #

Capitalism's vampires: How WNBA and MLB owners exploit player labor

By Lev Koufax

As the summer has worn on, tensions between player unions and team ownership in the world of professional athletics have risen higher and higher – and for good reason.

Both the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and Major League Baseball (MLB) are facing potential work stoppages due to continued ownership greed. The fundamental issue at the core of struggles between the players' unions and league ownership is how the revenues of the WNBA and the MLB are distributed.

Minnesota Lynx star Napheesa Collier highlights her pregame All-Star game shirt that reads, "Pay Us What You Owe Us."

Marx's vampire metaphor and sports capitalism

In 1867, Karl Marx wrote about the capitalist system: "Capital is dead labor, that, vampire-like, only lives by sucking living labor, and lives the more, the more labor it sucks."

This may seem a strange quote for the opening of an article about professional athletics in the United States. However, at its most fundamental, all professional sports leagues in capitalist society, no matter their relative size or wealth, manifest a relationship between labor and capital.

To this point, the WNBA and MLB ownership play the role of vampires in Marx's metaphor. The respective league ownership is fanatically committed to sucking all the profits they can from the players' blood, sweat, and tears while paying those players as little as possible.

Now, in both leagues – but particularly the MLB – the players' union is often criticized for what is perceived as "millionaires fighting billionaires." However, in both cases, the players should not be analyzed as being of the same class as the owners. While many professional athletes are paid well, some even earning hundreds of millions of dollars, they are ultimately still workers. Even for the players paid in the millions, their salaries pale in comparison to the profits raked in by billionaire team ownership — the players' labor produces super profits.

The vast majority of professional athletes don't remotely become millionaires. This is especially true for a league like the WNBA that is younger, subsidized by the men's National Basketball Association, and already faces a base gender pay gap, as do all women workers in the United States.

WNBA growth vs. stagnant player compensation

Recent years have shown a huge growth in the popularity and financial value of the WNBA. However, player salaries have remained woefully low.

While attendance, team value, and media profits have all skyrocketed, player pay has remained stagnant. Even now, the average WNBA player salary is just over $100,000 a year. For comparison, the average value of a WNBA team is $269 million. The total value of the league is over $3.5 billion.

Beyond salaries, there is also the issue of revenue-sharing payments. In the NBA, players receive 49% of all revenue, above and beyond their income. These payments are based on the level of profits made by each team. In the WNBA, players receive only 9% of the league's revenue. That's right, a measly stinking disgraceful 9%.

Adding insult to injury, the WNBA just signed a $2.2 billion media deal with ESPN, a deal that will inject $200 million a year into the league. Yet, as contract negotiations between the WNBA Players' Association began, suddenly these billionaires pleaded poverty.

No game without the players – 'pay us what you owe us'

It is for that reason that star players like Kelsey Plum, Napheesa Collier, and Caitlin Clark donned "Pay Us What You Owe Us" t-shirts at the recent All-Star game.

Union President Nneka Ogwumike spoke out on the issue: "The business is booming – media rights, ratings, revenue, team valuations, expansion fees, attendance, and ticket sales – are all up in historic fashion. But short-changing the working women who make this business possible stalls growth."

Without these players and many others, there is no WNBA. This same formula can be applied to any industry. Without the workers who actually create the product that gives the industry or enterprise value – there is no industry or enterprise.

This reality has not stopped the billionaires from waging war on the entirety of the working class, including relatively well-paid professional athletes.

MLB's looming salary cap battle

Major League Baseball is no exception. The collective bargaining agreement between the MLB players' union (MLBPA) and the MLB is due to expire in 2026. The players expect that in the new contract negotiations, the League will attempt to impose a salary cap, or a limit on the total amount each team can dedicate to payroll.

Salary caps are an old tool, currently in use by the NFL, the NBA, and the NHL. By limiting the dollar amount each team can pay its players, league ownership guarantees a certain level of profits and escalates the already exploitative conditions.

The imposition of a salary cap would be no less than catastrophic for all MLB players. Capping payroll will lead to an overall lower average salary for players and severely limit earning potential for star and non-star players alike.

Historical stakes

It is for this reason that Phillies superstar Bryce Harper told MLB commission-

Continued on page 6

Standing together against ICE and police brutality in Baltimore

By Penny Pinotti

The phrase "juntos somos más fuertes," meaning "together we are stronger," encapsulates the message of the Peoples Power Assembly's car caravan held on July 12.

The caravan of approximately 17 vehicles traversed Baltimore's deeply segregated city, passing through predominantly Black neighborhoods like Sandtown-Winchester and predominantly Latine neighborhoods like Highlandtown.

The cars in the caravan led chants and played protest songs in both Spanish and English. As the cars drove past, residents of Baltimore peered out their windows and stopped on the sidewalks to wave or raise a fist in solidarity.

The chants of the caravan echoed the sentiments of the talks given at the parking lot before the procession: With solidarity, we can stand up to the violence used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and police that terrorize our community.

The struggles of the Black and Brown communities are not separate; the police brutality against the Black community and the violence that ICE uses to abduct and deport members of the migrant community are the same tactics.

The speech from an organizer with the Peoples Power Assembly that kicked off the event is presented here:

I want to thank you all for coming out and showing up for the community. Today, I will be providing a brief update on Kilmar Ábrego García as well as speaking about the other racist actions the government has taken against the Latine community.

As you may know, Kilmar Ábrego García was wrongfully arrested by ICE and deported to CECOT, the mega-prison in El Salvador that is notorious for human rights violations. His deportation was hasty and did not allow time for any sort of due process. After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. government needed to facilitate Mr. Ábrego Garcia's release from CECOT and his return to the States, the Trump administration claimed it had no power to do so.

However, the federal government magically found the authority to bring Kilmar back to the U.S. in June so they could put him on trial for alleged human trafficking, based on a traffic stop in Tennessee in 2022. Mr. Ábrego Garcia pleaded not guilty to these charges.

An assistant director of ICE, Thomas Giles, testified that if Kilmar is released on bond from Tennessee, he will be detained by ICE and deported to a third country: either Mexico or South Sudan. Ábrego Garcia's legal team is asking for a 72-hour notice before deportation if he is released from jail and detained by ICE. Right now, we are awaiting the Judge's ruling.

Let's be clear: ICE arrested and deported Kilmar to what is essentially a torture facility because of his skin color, and they have him awaiting a criminal trial now to cover up their mistakes. We need to act and make our voices heard for Kilmar and for the members of our community targeted.

Speaking of deportations to South Sudan, ICE deported eight men there: seven of the men are from Cuba, Laos, Myanmar, and Mexico, while only one is from South Sudan. These men were held in a shipping container in Djibouti before being sent to South Sudan, where they are now in the custody of the government in South Sudan.

As seen by the mass arrests and deportations by ICE, Kilmar's story is not an exception. ICE is targeting people based on skin color and has arrested citizens and people with residency. The racist arrests and deportations are not stopping; this "Big Beautiful Bill," which should be called the "Big BS Bill," expands funding for immigration enforcement to $170 billion.

This includes $45 billion to build new detention facilities, like the facility known as "Alligator Alcatraz," $47 billion for "border wall construction," and increases ICE's yearly budget to $30 billion. Trump has also promised 10,000 new ICE agents, making a total of 30,000 ICE agents. That makes one ICE agent per 11,000 people in this country.

The new detention facilities planned will be like the inhumane facility known as Alligator Alcatraz, which is a concentration camp made of tents in the Florida Everglades and is not fit for human beings. This horrific facility has already flooded, serves spoiled food, has fluorescent lights on 24/7, and lacks water for bathing. We need to continue to be out in the streets and keep our voices loud until our community members are no longer abducted and sent to inhumane camps to wait for deportation.

I don't know if you guys have seen the new music video Bad Bunny released on the 4th of July, but the video ended with a black screen and the phrase, "juntos somos más fuertes," meaning, "together we are stronger."

This phrase is true. I know what's happening now is demoralizing, but we need to remember that together, we are strong and have the power to fight for our community. We need to keep talking about what's happening. Do not let Kilmar be forgotten. We must keep raising our voices until these racist attacks on community members end.

To get our energy going for our demo today, we're going to do a classic chant where we say, "el pueblo unido, jamás será vencido, " which roughly translates to "the people united will never be defeated." #

No more transit fare hikes in NYC!

New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority wants to raise transit fares on buses and subways to $3. That's 60 times what it cost in 1948, when the fare was a nickel. Meanwhile, the MTA provides $2.8 billion in tax-free interest on its bonds every year to banksters. Struggle-La Lucha urges its readers to support the Fare Ain't Fair Coalition in fighting this robbery of poor and working people.

New York, April 21 – The Fare Ain't Fair campaign held a news conference demanding a rollback in subway and bus fares. SLL photo

Aug. 1 Fare Ain't Fair Coalition Press Statement

On July 30, the MTA Board concluded its July meeting (which is open to the public but meets at 9:00 am when most working people are already on the clock) with the threat of a fare increase that would go into effect on Jan. 4, 2026. A decision such as this could only come from an entity that is completely out of touch with the day-to-day experiences of the working and poor people of our city, as we struggle to survive an unprecedented affordability crisis that shows no sign of letting up.

The "Fare Ain't Fair Coalition" – a group of working and poor New Yorkers fighting for affordable transit – demands the MTA Board cancel the 2026 fare hike and all future increases. The strength of our fight comes from our collective recognition that fares keep going up, rent keeps going up, and our paychecks do not! Our position is that any fare increase imposed upon us by the MTA Board would exacerbate the fundamental issue with our transit system: one in five New Yorkers is struggling to afford the fare. The affordability crisis will worsen if we continue to allow NYC agencies to extract from our shrinking pockets.

An incorrect analysis of our current situation is what leads the MTA Board to invest over $1 billion/year on "fare evasion prevention" rather than investing those same dollars in the NYC Fair Fares program, which would directly alleviate some of the financial burden resulting in fare evasion. The root cause of fare evasion is not criminality; it is an inability to keep up with the rising cost of living that is outpacing the money we are bringing home.

To the MTA Board, our message is simple: The days of you making decisions that negatively impact the quality of life and safety of transit riders and workers without organized resistance are numbered. The "Fare Ain't Fair Coalition" calls on all working and poor New Yorkers to join this campaign, as we continue to apply pressure, until our ability to access an affordable and quality public transit system is recognized as a human right.

The fare ain't fair and the poor won't pay more! To join the Fare Ain't Fair Coalition and / or learn more about our work, contact us at fareaintfair@protonmail.com. #

How WNBA and MLB owners exploit player labor

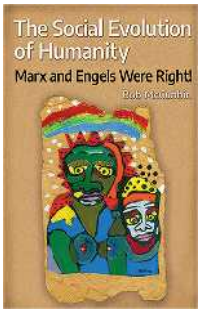
Continued from page 4

er Rob Manfred to "get the f*** out of [the Phillies'] clubhouse when Manfred attempted to meet with the players in their locker room about contract negotiations.

For baseball to adopt a salary cap would not only be a slap in the face to the current players, but it would all but destroy the legacy of players like Curt Flood. In the 1970s, Flood took on the entire MLB establishment over the reserve clause, which bound players to their teams for the entirety of the players' careers. The stand on behalf of the players essentially ended Flood's career, but his fight directly led to the formation of the MLBPA and a significant increase in player wages.

A salary cap would undo that struggle in the same way continued pay inequity in the WNBA would undo the years and years that mostly Black women invested into the league to make it viable and culturally sustainable. This moment in the United States is a moment of escalated fascist attack across the front of society. This is no different in the field of professional athletics.

Payers and their unions must be supported as they continue their respective fights. These fights expose a direct conflict between the contributions of labor and the fact that under capitalism, workers are paid far less than the value of the labor they contribute. As always, the wealth should be in the hands of the workers. In this case, the players are the workers, and we wish them the strongest of victories. #



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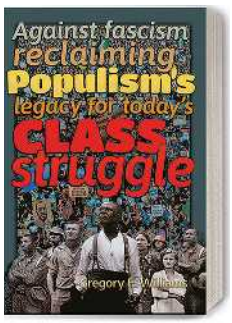
Marx and Engels were right! Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels' masterful work,'Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.'



Against fascism –reclaiming POPULISM'S legacy for today's class struggle

Tinyurl.com/Populism-book

Photo: Bill Hackwell

JULY 26

The legacy that Cuba transforms & defends

By Alejandra Garcia

Havana, July 26 — The importance of July 26 for the new generation of Cubans extends far beyond a historical date; it represents a living challenge to the present and a commitment to the nation's future.

The assault on the Moncada Barracks in 1953, led by Fidel Castro and a group of young revolutionaries, not only marked the beginning of the struggle against Batista's dictatorship, but also laid the foundations for a political and social project that redefined Cuba's sovereignty, its Latin American identity, and its internationalist vocation.

For younger generations, July 26 holds significance in three key dimensions. The first is the preservation of active memory and the defense of a sense of continuity. This year, the main celebration took place in Ciego de Ávila. As has been tradition since 1959, the date was not only commemorated but also lived as an active memory that challenges young people to grasp the deeper meaning of the Revolution: dignity, social justice, and national emancipation.

"In the face of attempts to depoliticize, forget, or trivialize history, July 26 represents an anchor of sovereignty, self-determination, and cultural resistance," said Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz in his speech at the event.

The second dimension is its role as an ethical reference point in times of crisis. Amid an economic downturn, the tightening of the U.S. blockade, and internal challenges, the legacy of Moncada offers a moral compass: the decision not to give in, to seek collective alternatives, to build with one's own effort.

"It's not about repeating slogans, but about revitalizing the spirit of that gesture—rebelling against what is unjust, even when conditions are adverse," Marrero added.

Finally, July 26 is a date that also points toward the future. For many young Cubans, it is a call to rethink the Revolution and make it their own. That means fostering debate, questioning what doesn't work, and contributing to scientific, cultural, technological, and community spaces.

Moncada was a triumph of youth, and today the challenge is to channel that same energy toward a Cuba that holds firm to its principles while reinventing itself in terms of digital sovereignty, ecological justice, socialist innovation, and participatory democracy.

July 26 remains a symbol of rebellion with a cause—a source of inspiration for building a future without renouncing foundational values. For the new generation of Cubans, it is not just a date: it is a legacy that is critically embraced, transformed, and defended—both in Cuba and around the world.

Alejandra Garcia is a Cuban journalist living and working in Havana where she is the lead correspondent for Resumen Latinoamericano in English and a news anchor for Telesur.

Source: Resumen Latinoamericano – English

Book on the LGBTQ+ rights revolution in Cuba is presented

By Iliana García Giraldino

Havana, July 29 — The presentation of the book "Love is the Law: The Queer Rights Revolution in Cuba," published in the United States by Struggle-La Lucha, the publishing house of the Struggle for Socialism Party, took place on Tuesday at the Casa de la Amistad in an event that became an expression of solidarity with Cuba, just causes around the world, and the LGBTQ+ community.

Among those in attendance were Fernando González Llort, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP); Mariela Castro Espín, director of the National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX); Cheryl LaBash, co-Chair of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) in the US; and Gregory Williams and Onyinye Alheri, members of the Struggle-La Lucha delegation.

The US "Venceremos" brigade, in its 53rd edition made up of members of the LGBTQ+ community, accompanied the presentation of the book that brings together materials (in English) from various authors on the approval and explanation of the Family Code in Cuba, highlighting that this legal system expands the rights of women, children, LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities, the elderly, and all Cubans.

This was stated by the book's editor, Gregory Williams, who described the presence of "Venceremos" as an achievement "considering the intensification of Washington's blockade of Cuba and the growing repression against queer (those who reject the male-female binary system) and trans people in the United States."

True face of US imperialism is revealed

In his speech, Williams reflected that "at this moment, the true face of US imperialism is being revealed more clearly to the world, through the genocide in Gaza, and the vulgarity and cruelty of the Trump regime... the brutality of imperialism is being exposed."

"And they seek to destroy Cuba and its socialist system that made the Family Code possible. They want to impose a government that will allow Wall Street to plunder the island as it did in the 1950s," he added, asserting that "this decline of the imperialist system is fueling the resurgence of fascism."

He denounced that within its own borders, the US government furiously attacks workers and oppressed people, including the trans community and immigrants.

The struggle for the rights of queer and trans people is part of a broader struggle against capitalism; we have the same enemy, he stressed.

Williams called for continued pressure to end the blockade and remove Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, exclaiming, "The US government is committing genocide in Palestine and has the audacity to accuse Cuba of terrorism!"

Justice for All

"Love is the law..." brings together testimonies from the delegation of American Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia that visited the Caribbean nation in 2023 to learn about the Family Code approved in 2022 by popular referendum.

In the dialogue prompted by the presentation of the book, Mariela Castro Espín spoke of the educational work, persuasion, and awareness-raising, as well as the advances in the rights of the LGBTQ+ population in Cuba as part of the social justice inherent in the Revolution.

Referring to the defense of the rights of the LGBTQ+ population, she emphasized that "solidarity among us unites us in the struggle for equality among people, for freedom, and against all forms of injustice," and told attendees that "in your struggle for LGBTQ+ rights, you are also fighting against the blockade of Cuba and for justice for all."

Book against the blockade of knowledge

On behalf of CENESEX, journalist Francisco Rodríguez Cruz, an activist for the rights of LGBTQ+ populations, considered that "Love is the law..." is a book against the blockade of knowledge, an act of resistance and a beacon of truth and solidarity in a world where misinformation about Cuba is systematic and where advances in LGBTIQ+ rights on the island are ignored or distorted.

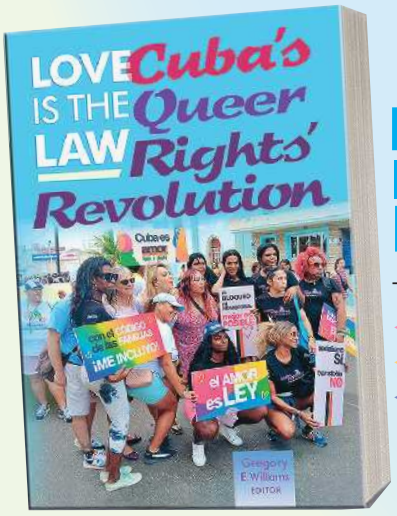
The work not only documents the legal content of the Family Code, but also contextualizes its emergence from a Marxist, anti-colonial, and deeply humanist perspective, emphasizing that "it is a rich reflection on how Cuban socialism has created conditions for the sustained expansion of rights, in contrast to the regressive offensive taking place in the United States."

Rodríguez Cruz described as brutal the conditions are resulting from the economic, political, informational, and cultural blockade against Cuba by the United States that has gone on for more than six decades, "a blockade that not only suffocates the country economically, but also imposes an informational siege."

At a time when the international fascist movement—led by figures like Donald Trump—is attacking LGBTIQ+ rights and public services, the book counters that dangerous view and underscores the importance of learning from Cuba, Rodríguez Cruz concluded.

Also participating in the meeting were representatives of IFCO-Pastors for Peace, including executive director Claudia de la Cruz, Gail Walker, and Samira Audrey; representatives of various LGBTIQ+ groups; and Graciela Ramírez, coordinator of the International Committee for Peace, Justice, and Dignity.

Source: Siempre con Cuba, translation Resumen Latinoamericano – English



LOVE IS THE LAW CUBA's Queer Rights Revolution

This book includes:
- Presentation by Cenesex director Mariela Castro Espín
- Discussion with a transmasculine Cuban activist
- The full text of Leslie Feinberg's 'Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba'

and more. Online at tinyurl.com/Cuba-LoveisLaw

Presentan libro sobre revolución de los derechos LGBTQ+ en Cuba

Por Iliana García Giraldino

Havana, July 29 – Cuban and U.S. activists gather for launch of new book, "Love is the law: Cuba's queer rights revolution."

La Habana. – La presentación del libro "El amor es la ley: La revolución de los derechos queer en Cuba", publicado en Estados Unidos por Struggle-La Lucha, editorial del Partido Lucha por el Socialismo, se realizó este martes en la Casa de la Amistad en un acto devenido expresión de solidaridad con Cuba, las causas justas en el mundo y con la comunidad LGBTQ+.

Entre los asistentes se encontraban Fernando González Llort, presidente del Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos (ICAP), Mariela Castro Espín, directora del Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual, Cheryl LaBash, copresidenta de la Red Nacional de Solidaridad con Cuba en EE.UU. y Gregory Williams y Onyinye Alheri, integrantes de la delegación de Struggle-La Lucha.

La brigada "Venceremos", de EE.UU., en esta edición 53 integrada por integrantes de la población LGBTQ+, acompañó la presentación de la obra que reúne materiales (en inglés) de varios autores sobre la aprobación del Código de las Familias en Cuba destacando que ese sistema legal amplía los derechos de las mujeres, los niños; de las personas LGBTQ+, con capacidades diferentes, de la tercera edad y de todos los cubanos.

Así afirmó el editor del libro, Gregory Williams, quien calificó la presencia de la "Venceremos" como un logro "considerando el recrudecimiento del bloqueo de Washington a Cuba y la creciente represión contra las personas queer (rechazan las clasificaciones del sistema binario varón-mujer) y trans en Estados Unidos".

El verdadero rostro del imperialismo estadounidense se revela

En su intervención Williams reflexionó "en estos momentos el verdadero rostro del imperialismo estadounidense se revela con mayor claridad ante el mundo, por Gaza, por la vulgaridad y la crueldad del régimen de Trump… la brutalidad del imperialismo se revela expuesta".

"Y ellos pretenden destruir a Cuba, al sistema socialista que hizo posible el Código de las Familias. Quieren imponer un gobierno que permita a Wall Street saquear a la isla como en los años 50", agregó, asegurando "esta decadencia del sistema imperialista alimenta el resurgimiento del fascismo".

Denunció que dentro de sus propias fronteras, el gobierno yanqui ataca con furia a los trabajadores y a las personas oprimidas, incluyendo a la comunidad trans y a los inmigrantes.

La lucha por los derechos de las personas queer y trans forma parte de una lucha más amplia contra el capitalismo, tenemos el mismo enemigo, remarcó.

Llamó a seguir presionando para que se ponga fin al bloqueo y se retire a Cuba de la lista de Estados Patrocinadores del Terrorismo y exclamó "¡el gobierno de Estados Unidos comete genocidio en Palestina y tiene la audacia de acusar a Cuba de terrorismo!".

Justicia para todos

"El amor es la ley…" reúne testimonios de la delegación de Amigos Estadounidenses contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia que visitó la nación antillana en 2023 para conocer el Código de las Familias aprobado en 2022 por referendo popular.

En el diálogo propiciado por la presentación del libro Mariela Castro Espín habló del trabajo educativo, de convencimiento y creación de conciencia y de los avances en los derechos de la población LGBTQ+ en Cuba como parte de la justicia social de la Revolución.

Refiriéndose a la defensa de los derechos de la población LGBTQ+ subrayó "la solidaridad entre nosotros nos une en la lucha por la igualdad entre las personas, por la libertad y contra todo tipo de injusticia" y dijo a los asistentes "en su lucha por los derechos de LGBTQ+ también están luchando contra el bloqueo a Cuba y por la justicia para todos".

Un libro contra el bloqueo del conocimiento

En nombre del CENESEX, el periodista Francisco Rodríguez Cruz, activista por los derechos de las poblaciones LGBTQ+, consideró que "El amor es la ley…" es un libro contra el bloqueo del conocimiento, un acto de resistencia y faro de verdad y solidaridad en un mundo donde la desinformación sobre Cuba es sistemática y donde los avances en derechos LGBTIQ+ en la isla son ignorados o distorsionados".

La obra no solo documenta el contenido jurídico del Código de las Familias, sino que contextualiza su surgimiento desde una lectura marxista, anticolonial y profundamente humanista, subrayando "es una rica reflexión sobre cómo el socialismo cubano ha generado condiciones para la ampliación sostenida de derechos, en contraste con la ofensiva regresiva que se vive en Estados Unidos".

Rodríguez Cruz catalogó de brutales las condiciones derivadas del bloqueo económico, político informativo y cultural contra Cuba por parte de Estados Unidos desde hace más de seis décadas, "un bloqueo que no solo asfixia económicamente al país, sino que también impone un cerco informativo y simbólico".

En un momento en que el movimiento fascista internacional —encabezado por figuras como Donald Trump— ataca los derechos LGBTIQ+ y los servicios públicos, el libro subraya la importancia de aprender de Cuba, afirmó Rodríguez Cruz.

Participaron además en el encuentro, representantes de IFCO-Pastores por la Paz, entre ellos Claudia de la Cruz, directora ejecutiva, Gail Walker y Samira Audrey; de diversas agrupaciones de LGBTIQ+ y Graciela Ramírez, coordinadora Comité Internacional Paz, Justicia y Dignidad de los Pueblos. *(Texto y fotos: Iliana García Giraldino /Siempre con Cuba)*

A book against the blockade ‘Love is the law: Cuba’s queer

The following text was presented by Francisco Rodríguez Cruz on July 29 at the ICAP (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos / Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples) House of Friendship, in Havana, Cuba, with the participation of the Venceremos Brigade and LGBTIQ+ activists from the United States, along with members of the community networks linked to Cenesex (Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual / National Center for Sex Education), among other invited individuals.

This event was the Cuban launch of the book published in the U.S. by Struggle-La Lucha, “Love is the law: Cuba’s queer rights revolution.” Rodríguez Cruz is the vice president of the Cuban Union of Journalists (UPEC) and a gay activist. He is better known as “Paquito el de Cuba.”

One of the biggest surprises and disappointments I have experienced when representing Cuba in international forums on LGBTIQ+ rights, or simply in my daily contact with supportive friends from other countries visiting Cuba, is the widespread ignorance, sometimes almost total, of all our most recent struggles and achievements in this area.

The smear campaign about homophobia and transphobia in the Cuban Revolution continues to be the prevailing opinion in the major transnational media, reinforced time and again by the permanent decontextualization by the counterrevolutionary press financed from abroad of the problems we still have, of course, in this cultural battle to overcome prejudice and stigma, discrimination and injustice based on people’s sexual orientation and gender identity.

And precisely in a world where misinformation about Cuba is systematic and where advances in LGBTIQ+ rights on the island are ignored or distorted, the book “Love is the law: Cuba’s queer rights revolution” stands as a beacon of truth and solidarity, seeking to shed light on an induced and far from innocent darkness against our country.

Published by Struggle-La Lucha and presented at the Urban Reads bookstore in Baltimore — a space that has bravely resisted attacks by neo-Nazi groups — this work documents the democratic and revolutionary process that led to the approval in Cuba almost three years ago of the new Families Code, a pioneering legal framework that expands rights for women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and especially the LGBTIQ+ community.

This book not only documents the legal content of the Code, but also contextualizes its emergence from a Marxist, anti-colonial, and deeply humanist perspective. Readers will find testimonies from Cuban activists, historical analyses, excerpts from speeches, including those by Mariela Castro, director of Cenesex, and a rich reflection on how Cuban socialism has created conditions for the sustained expansion of rights, in contrast to the regressive offensive underway in the United States.

Because the U.S. blockade against Cuba is not only economic, it is also a cultural and political blockade that seeks to silence the achievements of the Revolution. While in the United States and much of the world, a narrative is promoted that caricatures Cuba as a country lagging in human rights, the reality is radically different. As the book points out, Cuba has built, through a process of popular democracy, one of the most advanced legal systems in terms of LGBTIQ+ rights, surpassing even many capitalist nations.

The book highlights a key point that is often forgotten: the processual and dialectical nature of the Cuban Revolution. Instead of clinging to dogma, the socialist process in Cuba has demonstrated, through the new Families Code, its ability to learn, rectify, and move forward. The fact that the Cuban government actively promotes LGBTIQ+ rights — through Cenesex, public health policies, legislation, and political representation — challenges all the stereotypes constructed by the Western media.

I should add here that this is not just about the renewal of family law, which is the focus of this important title. Following the approval of the Families Code, Cuba has incorporated approaches to protection and guarantees for LGBTIQ+ people into other updated regulations or those that have emerged as a development of the 2019 Constitution.

The Penal Code; public health regulations, including those relating to assisted reproduction and surrogacy; the extension of maternity and paternity rights; and just a few days ago, the approval of the new Code on Children, Adolescents, and Youth, together with the Civil Registry Law; complete what we can safely say is one of the most comprehensive and revolutionary legal systems in the world in terms of LGBTIQ+ rights, and one that will surely continue to develop.

But let us return to our book, which we hope will soon be available in Spanish from a Cuban publisher, also to contribute to the education of our citizens, who are in great need of it on these issues.

Because in these dangerous times of colonization of thought, historical obfuscation, and traps for de-ideologization, we can also learn a lot from the analysis of transgender communist Leslie Feinberg, who in her/zir essay “Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba” (2009) [included in “Love is the law”] contextualizes the Cuban LGBTIQ+ struggle within our history of anti-colonial and anti-imperialist resistance. Feinberg highlights how, unlike the United States — where the Stonewall rebellion (1969) was a response to police brutality and marginalization — Cuba has managed to integrate the demands of diverse sexualities into a socialist project that prioritizes collective justice.

Another of the book’s major contributions is to debunk the myth that Cuba has historically been homophobic and unevolved. While the early years of the Revolution were marked by prejudices inherited from Spanish colonialism and U.S. neocolonial influence, as well as the mistakes inherent in an armed national liberation process that reinforced the symbolism of a rebellious and exclusively heterosexual masculinity, the Cuban women’s movement — led by the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) — paved the way with the first Family Code in 1975, a milestone that guaranteed equal pay, reproductive rights, and child protection decades before the United States.

As part of the counterinsurgency analysis presented in the book, passages that have been used to unfairly attack

# of knowledge: rights revolution’

Cuba are put into a more balanced perspective. It compares, for example, how in the 1980s, in the face of the AIDS epidemic, Cuba implemented public health policies that provided free medical care and housing to people with HIV, in contrast to the deliberate neglect of the Reagan administration. The creation of the National Center for Sex Education (Cenesex) in 1988, later directed by Mariela Castro Espín, consolidated a state model of active promotion of LGBTIQ+ rights, including free gender affirmation surgery since 2008.

The book also details the 2019 constitutional process, and highlights Article 42 of the current Constitution, which prohibits all discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and the subsequent referendum on the Family Code (2022), approved with 66.85% of the vote, after 79,000 popular assemblies and 6.5 million participants in the consultations.

This code, as we already know, legalized same-sex marriage, recognized the wide diversity of existing families (same-sex parents, multi-parent families, families with grandparents as caregivers, etc.), guaranteed adoption for all family types and non-profit surrogacy, introduced progressive autonomy for children and adolescents in decisions about their bodies, and strengthened protection against domestic and gender-based violence.

At a time when the international fascist movement — led by figures such as Donald Trump — is attacking LGBTIQ+ rights and public services, the book underscores the importance of learning from Cuba. While trans rights are being cut and teachers are being persecuted in the United States, Cuba has already moved forward with policies such as extending maternity leave to 15 months in 2024, and has just banned corrective surgery for intersex infants, established by law the right to comprehensive sexuality education and freedom of expression and respect for identity from childhood, adolescence, and youth, as well as the possibility for trans people to change their identity documents without the need for genital reassignment surgery.

The context cannot be forgotten: All this is happening under the brutal conditions of the economic, political, and cultural blockade imposed by the United States for more than six decades. A blockade that not only suffocates the country economically, but also imposes an information and symbolic siege. As one of the trans activists interviewed in the book points out, the shortage of hormones is not due to a lack of political will, but to the restrictions imposed by the blockade, aggravated by the absurd inclusion of Cuba on the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Photo: Facebook profile of Francisco Rodríguez Cruz

From left to right: Francisco Rodríguez Cruz (vice president of the Cuban Journalists’ Union); Cheryl LaBash (co-chair of the National Network on Cuba); and Gregory Williams (editor of “Love is the law).

Meanwhile, the United States is experiencing a reactionary legislative wave, with anti-trans laws, book bans, restrictions on abortion, and the criminalization of critical thinking in schools. The comparison is inevitable for the authors, who honestly highlight this contrast. While in Cuba, millions of people are consulted to expand rights, in the U.S., rights are being eliminated by judicial decrees signed by unelected judges who respond to corporate and fundamentalist interests.

Of particular relevance is the fact that this work denounces the hypocrisy of the U.S. government, which includes Cuba on its spurious list of State Sponsors of Terrorism while financing wars and supporting genocide in Palestine. In contrast, it is recognized that Cuba exports solidarity: doctors, education, and a model of social justice that inspires the world.

“Love is the Law” is not just a book; it is an act of resistance. It recovers the legacy of Feinberg and Bob McCubbin — whose Marxist analysis of LGBTIQ+ oppression is fundamental — and updates it for a new generation. In the words of editor Gregory Williams: “Stonewall means struggle, and Cuba shows us that another world is possible.”

From left to right: Fanny Guzman, Mariela Castro Espín; Gail Walker; Fernando González Llort (president of ICAP, center; Claudia De la Cruz on the right side.

This text is also a tool for decolonizing knowledge about Cuba, inspiring struggles in countries subjected to neoliberalism, and strengthening international solidarity against imperialism.

“Love is the law” is, therefore, much more than a legal or historical testimony. It is a tool for queer internationalism. An invitation to look south, toward socialist processes and anti-colonial resistance, to learn, be inspired, and build bridges. Because if this book teaches us anything, it is that the struggle for LGBTIQ+ rights cannot be separated from class struggle, feminism, anti-racism, and anti-capitalism.

In the words of editor Gregory E. Williams during the launch: “We must oppose those who seek to erase history. There is an alternative to capitalist oppression. With socialist revolution, people can move forward continuously instead of always being on the defensive.”

That is why we need this book, because it is a living memory of a revolution that continues to march forward. Because it dismantles the myths of imperialist propaganda. Because it reminds us that there are alternatives. As Feinberg wrote: “Trans and queer liberation is linked to the liberation of all oppressed people.” This book is another step on that path.

This book — I repeat — is urgent. Not only because the reactionary offensive is advancing in countries like the United States, but also because, from the imperialist centers, a distorted narrative of the Cuban Revolution has historically been promoted, particularly regarding the rights of LGBTIQ+ people. There is

Continued on page 18

Un libro contra el bloqueo del es ley: la revolución de los

El siguiente texto fue presentado por Francisco Rodríguez Cruz en 29 de julio en la Casa de la Amistad del ICAP, en La Habana, Cuba, con la participación de la Brigada Venceremos y activistas LGBTIQ+ de los Estados Unidos, junto con integrantes de las redes comunitarias vinculadas al Cenesex, entre otras personas invitadas.

Este evento fue el lanzamiento cubano del libro publicado en EUA por Struggle-La Lucha, "El amor es ley: la revolución de los derechos queer en Cuba." Rodríguez Cruz es vicepresidente de la Unión de Periodistas de Cuba (UPEC) y activista gay. El es mejor conocido como "Paquito el de Cuba."

Una de las mayores sorpresas y desilusiones que he vivido cuando me ha correspondido la responsabilidad de representar a Cuba en foros internacionales sobre los derechos de las personas LGBTIQ+, o simplemente durante el contacto cotidiano con amistades solidarias de otras naciones que visitan el país, es el desconocimiento mayoritario, casi absoluto en ocasiones, de todas nuestras luchas y conquistas más recientes en esta materia.

La leyenda negra sobre la homofobia y la transfobia de la Revolución Cubana continúa siendo la matriz de opinión predominante en los grandes medios de comunicación transnacionales, reforzada una y otra vez por la descontextualización permanente que hace la prensa contrarrevolucionaria financiada desde el exterior de los problemas que todavía tenemos, por supuesto, en esa batalla cultural por superar prejuicios y estigmas, discriminaciones e injusticias, por motivo de la orientación sexual y la identidad de género de las personas.

Y precisamente en un mundo donde la desinformación sobre Cuba es sistemática y donde los avances en derechos LGBTIQ+ en la isla son ignorados o distorsionados, el libro "El amor es ley: la revolución de los derechos queer en Cuba" se erige como un faro de verdad y solidaridad, que pretende arrojar luz sobre una oscuridad inducida y nada inocente contra nuestro país.

Publicado por Struggle-La Lucha y presentado en la librería Urban Reads de Baltimore — un espacio valientemente resistente a los ataques de grupos neonazis — esta obra documenta el proceso democrático y revolucionario que llevó a la aprobación en Cuba hace ya casi tres años del nuevo Código de las Familias, un marco legal pionero que amplía derechos para mujeres, infantes, personas mayores, personas con discapacidad y, especialmente, la comunidad LGBTIQ+.

Este libro no solo documenta el contenido jurídico del Código, sino que contextualiza su surgimiento desde una lectura marxista, anticolonial y profundamente humanista. El lector encontrará testimonios de activistas cubanas y cubanos, análisis históricos, fragmentos de discursos, entre ellos los de Mariela Castro, directora del Cenesex, y una rica reflexión sobre cómo el socialismo cubano ha generado condiciones para la ampliación sostenida de derechos, en contraste con la ofensiva regresiva que se vive en Estados Unidos.

Porque el bloqueo estadounidense contra Cuba no es solo económico; es también un bloqueo cultural y político que busca silenciar los logros de la Revolución. Mientras en Estados Unidos y gran parte del mundo se promueve una narrativa que caricaturiza a Cuba como un país atrasado en derechos humanos, la realidad es radicalmente distinta. Como señala el libro, Cuba ha construido, a través de un proceso de democracia popular, uno de los sistemas legales más avanzados en materia de derechos LGBTIQ+, superando incluso a muchas naciones capitalistas.

El libro recoge un punto clave que se olvida con frecuencia: el carácter procesual y dialéctico de la Revolución Cubana. En vez de aferrarse a dogmas, el proceso socialista en Cuba ha demostrado, a través del nuevo Código de las Familias, su capacidad de aprender, rectificar y avanzar. El hecho de que el gobierno cubano promueva activamente los derechos LGBTIQ+ — a través del Cenesex, las políticas de salud pública, la legislación y la representación política — desafía todos los estereotipos construidos desde los medios occidentales.

Debo añadir aquí que no solo se trata de la renovación del derecho familiar, aspecto en el cual ahonda este importante título. Con posterioridad a la aprobación del Código de las Familias, Cuba ha incorporado enfoques de protección y garantías para las personas LGBTIQ+ en otras normas actualizadas o surgidas como desarrollo de la Constitución de 2019.

El Código Penal; las normas de Salud Pública, incluyendo las relativas a la reproducción asistida y la gestación solidaria; la ampliación de los derechos de la maternidad y la paternidad; y hace apenas unos pocos días, la aprobación del nuevo Código de la Niñez, Adolescencias y Juventudes, junto con la Ley del Registro Civil; completan el que con toda seguridad podemos afirmar que es uno de los ordenamientos jurídicos más completos y revolucionarios del mundo en materia de derechos LGBTIQ+, y que seguramente continuará su desarrollo.

Pero volvamos a nuestro libro, del cual ojalá podamos tener pronto una versión en español de alguna editorial cubana, también para contribuir a la educación de nuestra ciudadanía, que mucho lo necesita en estos temas.

Porque en estos peligrosos tiempos de colonización del pensamiento, escamoteo de la historia y trampas para la desideologización, mucho puede servirnos acá también el análisis de la comunista transgénero Leslie Feinberg, quien en su ensayo "Solidaridad Arcoíris en defensa de Cuba" (2009) contextualiza la lucha LGBTIQ+ cubana dentro de nuestra historia de resistencia anticolonial y antiimperialista. Feinberg destaca cómo, a diferencia de Estados Unidos — donde la rebelión de Stonewall (1969) fue una respuesta a la brutalidad policial y la marginación — Cuba ha logrado integrar las demandas de las sexualidades diversas en un proyecto socialista que prioriza la justicia colectiva.

Otro de los mayores aportes del libro es desmontar el mito de que Cuba ha sido históricamente homofóbica sin evolución. Si bien los primeros años de la Revolución estuvieron marcados por prejuicios heredados del colonialismo español y la influencia neocolonial estadounidense, más los errores propios de un proceso de liberación nacional armado que reforzó la simbología de una virilidad rebelde y exclusivamente heterosexual, el movimiento de mujeres cubanas — encabezado por la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas (FMC) — abrió el camino con el primer Código de Familia en 1975, un hito que garantizó igualdad salarial, derechos reproductivos y protección infantil décadas antes que en los Estados Unidos.

conocimiento: ‘El amor Derechos queer en Cuba’

Foto de SLL.

De izquierda a derecha: Onyinye Alheri (Centro Harriet Tubman para la Justicia Social y Centro LGBT de Los Angeles); Verde Gil Jiménez (coordinador general del Grupo Trans Masculinos de Cuba); Gregory Williams. Alheri y Jiménez hablaron en el lanzamiento del libro. Sus presentaciones aparecerán en la próxima edición de Struggle-La Lucha.

Como parte de ese análisis contrainsurgente que nos propone el libro, se ponen en una perspectiva más balanceada pasajes con los cuales se ha pretendido atacar a Cuba injustamente. Compara, por ejemplo, como en los años 80, frente a la epidemia del SIDA, Cuba implementó políticas de salud pública que brindaron atención médica gratuita y vivienda a personas con VIH, en contraste con el abandono deliberado del gobierno de Reagan. La creación del Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual (Cenesex) en 1988, luego dirigido por Mariela Castro Espín, consolidó un modelo estatal de promoción activa de derechos LGBTIQ+, incluyendo las cirugías genitales gratuitas de afirmación de identidad de género desde 2008.

El libro detalla también el proceso constituyente de 2019, y resalta el Artículo 42 de la actual Carta Magna, que prohibió toda discriminación por orientación sexual e identidad de género, y el posterior referéndum del Código de las Familias (2022), aprobado con el 66,85% de los votos, tras 79 mil asambleas populares y 6 millones y medio de participantes en las consultas.

Este código, como ya sabemos, legalizó el matrimonio igualitario, reconoció la amplia diversidad de familias existentes (homoparentales, multiparentales, con abuelos a cargo, etcétera), garantizó la adopción para todas las variantes familiares y la gestación subrogada sin lucro, introdujo la autonomía progresiva de infantes y adolescentes en decisiones sobre sus cuerpos y reforzó la protección contra la violencia doméstica y de género.

En un momento en que el movimiento fascista internacional — encabezado por figuras como Donald Trump — ataca los derechos LGBTIQ+ y los servicios públicos, el libro subraya la importancia de aprender de Cuba. Mientras en Estados Unidos se recortan derechos trans y se persigue a docentes, Cuba avanzó ya con políticas como la extensión de la licencia de maternidad a 15 meses en 2024, y ahora acaba de prohibir las cirugías correctivas para infantes intersexuales, ha establecido por ley el derecho a la educación integral de la sexualidad y a la libre expresión y respeto de la identidad desde la niñez, adolescencia y juventud, así como la posibilidad de que las personas trans modifiquen su documento de identidad sin necesidad de cirugías de readecuación genital.

El contexto no puede olvidarse: todo esto ocurre bajo las condiciones brutales del bloqueo económico, político y cultural impuesto por Estados Unidos desde hace más de seis décadas. Un bloqueo que no solo asfixia económicamente al país, sino que también impone un cerco informativo y simbólico. Como señala uno de los activistas trans entrevistados en el libro, la escasez de hormonas no se debe a la falta de voluntad política, sino a las restricciones impuestas por el bloqueo, agravadas por la absurda inclusión de Cuba en la lista de Estados patrocinadores del terrorismo.

Mientras tanto, en Estados Unidos se vive una ola legislativa reaccionaria, con leyes anti-trans, prohibiciones de libros, restricciones al aborto y criminalización del pensamiento crítico en las escuelas. La comparación es inevitable para sus autores, que muestran con honestidad ese contraste. Mientras en Cuba se consulta a millones de personas para ampliar derechos, en EUA los derechos se eliminan por decretos judiciales firmados por jueces no electos que responden a intereses corporativos y fundamentalistas.

De particular relevancia resulta, además, que esta obra denuncie la hipocresía del gobierno estadounidense, al incluir a Cuba en su espuria lista de Estados Patrocinadores del Terrorismo, mientras financia guerras y apoya el genocidio en Palestina. Frente a esto, se reconoce, Cuba exporta solidaridad: médicos, educación y un modelo de justicia social que inspira al mundo.

“El amor es ley” no es solo un libro; es un acto de resistencia. Recupera el legado de Feinberg y Bob McCubbin — cuyo análisis marxista sobre la opresión LGBTIQ+ es fundamental — y lo actualiza para una nueva generación. En palabras del editor Gregory Williams: “Stonewall significa lucha, y Cuba nos muestra que otro mundo es posible.”

Este texto constituye igualmente una herramienta para descolonizar el conocimiento sobre Cuba, inspirar luchas en países sometidos al neoliberalismo y fortalecer la solidaridad internacional frente al imperialismo.

El amor es ley es, por tanto, mucho más que un testimonio jurídico o histórico. Es una herramienta para el internacionalismo queer. Una invitación a mirar hacia el Sur, hacia los procesos socialistas, hacia las resistencias anticoloniales, para aprender, inspirarnos y construir puentes. Porque si algo nos enseña este libro es que la lucha por los derechos LGBTIQ+ no puede desvincularse de la lucha de clases, del feminismo, del antirracismo, del anticapitalismo.

En palabras del editor Gregory E. Williams durante el lanzamiento: “Debemos oponernos a quienes intentan borrar la historia. Existe una alternativa a la opresión capitalista. Con la revolución socialista, la gente puede avanzar continuamente en lugar de estar siempre a la defensiva.”

Por eso necesitamos este libro. Porque es una memoria viva de una revolución que sigue caminando. Porque desmantela los mitos de la propaganda imperialista. Porque nos recuerda que sí hay alternativas. Como escribió Feinberg: “La liberación trans y queer está ligada a la liberación de todos los oprimidos”. Este libro es un paso más en ese camino.

Este libro — reitero — es urgente. No solo porque la ofensiva reaccionaria avanza en países como Estados Unidos, sino también porque, desde los centros imperialistas, se ha promovido históricamente una narrativa distorsionada de la Revolución Cubana, en particular sobre los derechos de las personas LGBTIQ+. Hay un silencio — o peor, una mentira — que oculta el hecho de que Cuba ha sido, en las últimas décadas, un ejemplo notable de cómo un proceso socialista puede ampliar los derechos sexuales y de género desde una lógica de justicia social, equidad estructural y participación democrática real.

Ese silencio debe romperse.
Y obras como esta lo logran.

Muchas gracias. #

Book launch contrasts Cuban LGBTQI+

The following talk was presented on July 29 at the ICAP (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos / Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples) House of Friendship, in Havana, Cuba, with the participation of the Venceremos Brigade and LGBTIQ+ activists from the United States, along with members of the community networks linked to Cenesex (Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual / National Center for Sex Education), among other invited individuals.

This event was the Cuban launch of the book published in the U.S. by Struggle-La Lucha, "Love is the law: Cuba's queer rights revolution." Gregory E. Williams is the book's editor.

Gregory E. Willilliams with the new book 'Love is the law: Cuba's queer rights revolution.'

By Gregory E. Williams

July 26 set the stage

Thank you for having me here today. How auspicious that we're together in Havana when Cuba just celebrated the July 26 holiday. This is the date when, in 1953, the revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro attacked the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba, and Raúl Martínez Ararás led the attack on army barracks in Bayamo. This combined offensive set the stage for the defeat of the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959.

Because of that victory, today Cuba is a sovereign state building socialism. And the institutions of socialist democracy – along with guaranteed access to housing, health care, and more – are the basis for Cuba's tremendous advance with the Families Code adopted in 2022. This comprehensive reform of the legal system expands the rights of women, children, LGBTQI+ people, those with different abilities, elders, and ultimately all Cubans. It's about much more than same-sex marriage.

In addition, the very first all-LGBTQI+ Venceremos Brigade is here with us today. Congratulations! That's an accomplishment, given the simultaneous tightening of Washington's blockade of Cuba and the increased repression against queer and trans people in the U.S.

Also, our host, ICAP – the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples – is celebrating 65 years of fostering the kinds of internationalist connections we're making today. Congratulations to ICAP!

Today's event is the Cuban launch of the book about the Families Code, "Love is the law: Cuba's queer rights revolution," released in the U.S. by Struggle-La Lucha, the publishing arm of the Struggle for Socialism Party. Our friend Paquito [Francisco Rodríguez Cruz] from Cenesex has already explained the significance of the book. Thank you Paquito! I agree with him that a Spanish translation is needed. Let's talk more.

I'd like to recognize several contributors to the book who are present: Cheryl LaBash, co-chair of the National Network on Cuba in the U.S.; Mariela Castro Espín, director of Cuba's National Center for Sex Education, or Cenesex, which contributed greatly to the development of this Code; also, the amazing initiator of this event, Aylen Lesmes Bonachea of ICAP; Alejandra Garcia of Resumen Latinoamericano; and Verde Gil Jiménez of the Grupo Trans Masculinos de Cuba. Verde helped me develop this presentation by asking questions about the trans struggle in the U.S. Thank you, everyone! If I've missed anyone, please let me know.

LGBTQI+ delegation learned from Cuba

Let me just emphasize that this book grew from the U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia Delegation, which went to Cuba in May 2023 to learn about the Code. It was organized by ICAP and Women in Struggle / Mujeres en Lucha.

During that trip, we met with queer and trans organizers, delegates from neighborhood assemblies, and a deputy of the National Assembly of People's Power – the equivalent of the U.S. Congress. (But note that Cuba's representatives are ordinary workers – medics, plumbers, teachers – not millionaire career politicians like in the U.S.). The testimonies from this delegation are a central part of the book. Hopefully, the book is just one more step in our continuing collaborations.

True face of U.S. imperialism is revealed

The book has come out in a particular historical context that I've already alluded to. Allow me to say something about that. I am referring not only to Cuba-U.S. relations, but to the present state of the global capitalist (or imperialist) system led by the U.S. That should ground our discussion.

I believe that in this moment, the real face of U.S. imperialism is more fully revealed before the world. Because of Gaza. Because of the cruelty and vulgarity of Trump's regime. Of course, Trump is just a symptom. But in this moment, Washington's beautiful words about democracy and human rights – used to justify sanctions and war – don't have the power they once did. The naked brutality of imperialism is revealed.

The system is truly decayed, and it's because of this decadence that the imperialists are so dangerous. Their desperation causes them to lash out in all directions. They're burning children alive in Gaza. They're pushing for war with China.

And this terrorist government of the United States, which has killed many millions of people worldwide, is trying to destroy Cuba. They want to destroy the socialist system that made the Families Code possible. They want to impose a government that would let Wall Street plunder Cuba like in the '50s.

This decadence of the imperialist system is fueling resurgent fascism. Within its own borders, the Yankee government is furiously attacking workers and oppressed people, including the trans community. Like immigrants, trans people are scapegoats for this system's failures.

But they can't hide the fact that conditions inside the country are deteriorating. Homelessness increased 18% from 2023 to 2024. While austerity is imposed on the population, most of the state budget is given to the military and police, including ICE. They no longer make any pretense of improving the lives of the people.

Anti-trans hysteria fuels violence

Trump's movement has escalated rhetoric against trans people and pushed

advances with U.S. anti-trans repression

through many anti-trans laws. Violence against trans people has risen dramatically. Murders of trans people almost doubled between 2017 and 2022.

In that time, 65% of trans women killed by guns were Black. One third were experiencing housing insecurity. Clearly, transphobia is bound up with racism and economic exploitation.

There was a horrific case at the beginning of this year: the murder of Sam Nordquist, a young multi-racial trans man from Minnesota. In late 2024, Sam went missing after going to rural New York to stay with a girlfriend he met online. This woman and six other people sexually abused and tortured Sam for over one month before killing him.

One of the most shocking aspects is that some of the perpetrators are themselves LGBTQI+. That's why prosecutors don't consider it a hate crime. But I think it demonstrates the deep rot of the social fabric and can't be separated from anti-trans hysteria.

Again, that happened in New York, a so-called "liberal" state. California is another. Yet this month, thousands of trans children and youth are losing access to gender-affirming care in Los Angeles, California. The L.A. Children's Hospital is ending trans services because Trump threatened their funding. People have been fighting back, rallying outside the hospital. Our comrade Onyinye will tell us more about the fight in L.A.

No equivalent in U.S. to Cuba's popular democracy

Back to the Families code and why the U.S. and Cuban situations are so different. We must understand that because of their socialist system, Cuba has institutions of popular democracy that we don't have in the U.S.

In the U.S., just as there's no equivalent to this popular democracy, there's nothing comparable to the Families Code. Certainly, there are progressive laws (whether they're enforced or not), but each one is passed individually after a big struggle.

For example, some states began legalizing same-sex marriage starting in 2004, with federal recognition coming in 2013. That was a people's victory. But getting each of these laws passed was an uphill struggle because the capitalist state generally opposes progressive change.

From left to right: Cheryl LaBash (National Network on Cuba co-chair); Gregory Williams (Struggle-La Lucha co-editor); Graciela Ramírez Cruz (Resumen Latinamericano correspondent); Mariela Castro Espín (Cenesex director); Gail Walker (IFCO-Pastors for Peace executive director); and Francisco Rodríguez Cruz (Cuban Union of Journalists vice president).

But on top of the difficulty of getting any progressive law passed, rights won are later snatched away. That's part of the inevitable slide toward fascism as the imperialist system declines.

Queer and trans liberation part of anti-capitalist struggle

In the Struggle for Socialism Party, we affirm that the fight for queer and trans rights is part of the larger struggle against capitalism. The oppression of women and LGBTQI+ people is an outgrowth of class society – of premodern arrangements dividing those with wealth from those without it. Capitalism continues such oppressions in new forms.

So, when we talk about overcoming the capitalist mode of production, we are also talking about eliminating all forms of oppression, including gender and sexual oppression. Conversely, we can't have queer and trans liberation without overcoming capitalism.

We shouldn't be confused when corporations seeking queer and trans customers co-opt the symbols of our struggles. Neither should we be confused when imperialist governments use claims about our rights to justify their actions.

When Washington plans to destroy a country, it talks about the rights of people there. They say they're going to liberate women and bring democracy. This never happens. They bring death while backing the most reactionary forces everywhere.

U.S. imperialism can be defeated

Yes, we're up against a tremendous monster, but it can be defeated. The heroic peoples of Palestine, Yemen, Lebanon, and Iran are striking real blows against this monster. It's not invincible. And Cuba has stood firm for 66 years.

The Cuban people and the working-class and oppressed majority in the U.S. have the same enemy. In the U.S., we're being crushed by a system that benefits a small ruling class. The forces of that same class are trying to destroy Cuba. We have to work together.

With political education, the U.S. masses can understand this. For our part, as queer and trans activists from the U.S., we must spread the word about Cuba's achievements. And we must keep up the pressure to end the blockade and take Cuba off the bogus State Sponsors of Terrorism list.

Cuba stands firm

Before I conclude, let me state that I know Cuba's institutions of socialist democracy aren't perfect. But consider this remark from President Diaz-Canal's July 18 speech to the National Assembly:

"When we review all the periods of the 66 years of the Revolution in power,

Continued on page 18

Presentación de libro en La Habana LGBTQI+ cubanos con la represión

La siguiente charla se presentó el 29 de julio en la Casa de la Amistad del ICAP (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos), en La Habana, Cuba, con la participación de la Brigada Venceremos y activistas LGBTIQ+ de EUA, junto a miembros de las redes comunitarias vinculadas al Cenesex (Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual), entre otros invitados.

Este evento marcó el lanzamiento en Cuba del libro publicado en EUA por Struggle-La Lucha, "El amor es la ley: la revolución de los derechos queer en Cuba," (Actualmente solo disponible en inglés.) Gregory E. Williams es el editor del libro.

By Gregory E. Williams

El 26 de julio se preparó el escenario

Gracias por invitarme hoy. Qué auspicioso que estemos juntos en La Habana justo cuando Cuba celebra el 26 de julio. Esta es la fecha en la que, en 1953, los revolucionarios liderados por Fidel Castro atacaron el Cuartel Moncada en Santiago de Cuba, y Raúl Martínez Ararás lideró el ataque al cuartel del ejército en Bayamo. Esta ofensiva combinada sentó las bases para la derrota de la dictadura de Batista, apoyada por EUA, en 1959.

Gracias a esa victoria, Cuba es hoy un estado soberano que construye el socialismo. Y las instituciones de la democracia socialista – junto con el acceso garantizado a la vivienda, la atención médica y más – son la base del enorme avance de Cuba con el Código de las Familias, adoptado en 2022. Esta reforma integral del sistema legal amplía los derechos de las mujeres, los niños, las personas LGBTQI+, las personas con capacidades diferentes, personas de la tercera edad, en definitiva, de todos los cubanos. Va mucho más allá del matrimonio igualitario.

Además, la primera Brigada Venceremos, compuesta exclusivamente por personas LGBTQI+, nos acompaña hoy. ¡Felicidades! Es un logro, considerando el recrudecimiento simultáneo del bloqueo de Washington a Cuba y la creciente represión contra las personas queer y trans en EUA.

Además, nuestro anfitrión, el ICAP (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos), celebra 65 años fomentando las conexiones internacionalistas que hoy forjamos. ¡Felicitaciones al ICAP!

El evento de hoy es el lanzamiento en Cuba del libro sobre el Código de las Familias, "El amor es la ley: la revolución de los derechos queer en Cuba," publicado en EUA por Struggle-La Lucha, la editorial del Partido Lucha por el Socialismo. Nuestro amigo Paquito [Francisco Rodríguez Cruz] del Cenesex ya explicó la importancia del libro. ¡Gracias, Paquito! Coincido con él en que se necesita una traducción al español. Hablemos más.

Me gustaría reconocer a varios colaboradores del libro que están presentes: Cheryl LaBash, copresidenta de la Red Nacional sobre Cuba en EUA; Mariela Castro Espín, directora del Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual de Cuba, o Cenesex, que contribuyó enormemente al desarrollo de este Código; también, la increíble iniciadora de este evento, Aylen Lesmes Bonachea de ICAP; Alejandra García de Resumen Latinoamericano; y Verde Gil Jiménez del Grupo Trans Masculino de Cuba. Verde me ayudó a desarrollar esta presentación haciendo preguntas sobre la lucha trans en EUA. ¡Gracias a todos! Si he olvidado a alguien, por favor háganmelo saber.

Delegación LGBTQI+ aprendió de Cuba

Permítanme enfatizar que este libro surgió de la Delegación de Amigos estadounidenses Contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia, que viajó a Cuba en mayo de 2023 para conocer el Código. Fue organizado por ICAP y Mujeres en Lucha.

Durante ese viaje, nos reunimos con organizadores queer y trans, delegados de asambleas vecinales y un diputado de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular, el equivalente al Congreso de EUA. (Pero cabe destacar que los representantes en Cuba son trabajadores comunes y corrientes — médicos, fontaneros, maestros — no políticos millonarios de carrera como en Estados Unidos). Los testimonios de esta delegación son parte central del libro. Esperamos que este sea solo un paso más en nuestra continua colaboración.

Se revela el verdadero rostro del imperialismo estadounidense

El libro se publicó en un contexto histórico particular al que ya he aludido. Permítanme decir algo al respecto. Me refiero no solo a las relaciones entre Cuba y EUA, sino al estado actual del sistema capitalista (o imperialista) global liderado por EUA. Esto debería ser la base de nuestra discusión.

Creo que en este momento, el verdadero rostro del imperialismo estadounidense se revela con mayor claridad ante el mundo. Por Gaza. Por la crueldad y la vulgaridad del régimen de Trump. Claro que Trump es solo un síntoma. Pero en este momento, las hermosas palabras de Washington sobre democracia y derechos humanos, utilizadas para justificar sanciones y guerras, ya no tienen el poder que antes tenían. La brutalidad del imperialismo se revela de forma flagrante.

El sistema está verdaderamente deteriorado, y es precisamente por esta decadencia que los imperialistas son tan peligrosos. Su desesperación los lleva a atacar en todas direcciones. Queman vivos a niños en Gaza. Presionan para la guerra con China.

Y este gobierno terrorista de Estados Unidos, que ha asesinado a millones de personas en todo el mundo, intenta destruir a Cuba. Quieren destruir el sistema socialista que hizo posible el Código de las Familias. Quieren imponer un gobierno que permita que Wall Street saquee a Cuba como en los años 50.

Esta decadencia del sistema imperialista alimenta el resurgimiento del fascismo. Dentro de sus propias fronteras, el gobierno yanqui ataca furiosamente a los trabajadores y a las personas oprimidas, incluyendo a la comunidad trans. Al igual que los inmigrantes, las personas trans son chivos expiatorios de los fracasos de este sistema.

Pero no pueden ocultar el deterioro de las condiciones en el país. La falta de vivienda aumentó un 18% entre 2023 y 2024. Mientras se imponen medidas de austeridad a la población, la mayor parte del presupuesto estatal se destina al ejército y la policía, incluido el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE). Ya no pretenden mejorar la vida de la gente.

La histeria anti-trans alimenta la violencia

El movimiento de Trump ha intensificado la retórica contra las personas trans y ha impulsado numerosas leyes

contrasta los avances antitrans en EUA

During this trip, the 'Love is the law' delegation also visited a Prosalud office to learn about public health in Cuba. The center's presentation focused on HIV/AIDS prevention and support for those living with the virus.

SLL photo.

anti-trans. La violencia contra las personas trans ha aumentado drásticamente. Los asesinatos de personas trans casi se duplicaron entre 2017 y 2022.

En ese entonces, el 65% de las mujeres trans asesinadas por armas de fuego eran negras. Un tercio sufría inseguridad habitacional. Es evidente que la transfobia está ligada al racismo y la explotación económica.

A principios de este año se produjo un caso terrible: el asesinato de Sam Nordquist, un joven trans multirracial de Minnesota. A finales de 2024, Sam desapareció tras ir a una zona rural de Nueva York para vivir con una novia que conoció por internet. Esta mujer y otras seis personas abusaron sexualmente y torturaron a Sam durante más de un mes antes de matarlo.

Uno de los aspectos más impactantes es que algunos de los perpetradores son LGBTQI+. Por eso la fiscalía no lo considera un delito de odio. Pero creo que demuestra la profunda descomposición del tejido social y es inseparable de la histeria anti-trans.

De nuevo, eso ocurrió en Nueva York, un estado supuestamente "liberal." California es otro. Sin embargo, este mes, miles de niños y jóvenes trans están perdiendo el acceso a la atención de afirmación de género en Los Angeles, California. El Hospital Infantil de Los Angeles está cancelando los servicios trans porque Trump amenazó con financiarlos. La gente ha estado luchando, manifestándose frente al hospital. Nuestra compañera Onyinye nos contará más sobre la lucha en Los Angeles.

No hay equivalente en EUA a la democracia popular cubana

Volviendo al Código de las Familias y a por qué las situaciones en EUA y Cuba son tan diferentes. Debemos comprender que, gracias a su sistema socialista, Cuba cuenta con instituciones de democracia popular que no tenemos en EUA.

En EUA, así como no existe un equivalente a esta democracia popular, tampoco hay nada comparable al Código de la Familias. Ciertamente, existen leyes progresistas (ya sea que se apliquen o no), pero cada una se aprueba individualmente tras una gran lucha.

Por ejemplo, algunos estados comenzaron a legalizar el matrimonio igualitario en 2004, y el reconocimiento federal llegó en 2013. Fue una victoria popular. Sin embargo, lograr la aprobación de cada una de estas leyes fue una ardua lucha, ya que el estado capitalista generalmente se opone al cambio progresista.

Pero además de la dificultad de aprobar cualquier ley progresista, los derechos conquistados son posteriormente arrebatados. Eso forma parte de la inevitable caída hacia el fascismo a medida que el sistema imperialista decae.

La liberación queer y trans es parte de la lucha anticapitalista

En el Partido Lucha por el Socialismo, afirmamos que la lucha por los derechos de las personas queer y trans forma parte de la lucha más amplia contra el capitalismo. La opresión de las mujeres y las personas LGBTQI+ es consecuencia de la sociedad de clases, de los sistemas premodernos que separan a quienes tienen riqueza de quienes no la tienen. El capitalismo continúa estas opresiones bajo nuevas formas.

Así pues, cuando hablamos de superar el modo de producción capitalista, también hablamos de eliminar todas las formas de opresión, incluyendo la opresión de género y sexual. Por otro lado, no podemos lograr la liberación queer y trans sin superar el capitalismo.

No deberíamos confundirnos cuando las corporaciones que buscan clientes queer y trans se apropian de los símbolos de nuestras luchas. Tampoco deberíamos confundirnos cuando los gobiernos imperialistas usan argumentos sobre nuestros derechos para justificar sus acciones.

Cuando Washington planea destruir un país, habla de los derechos de sus habitantes. Dicen que liberarán a las mujeres e instaurarán la democracia. Esto nunca sucede. Provocan la muerte mientras apoyan a las fuerzas más reaccionarias del mundo.

El imperialismo estadounidense puede ser derrotado

Sí, nos enfrentamos a un monstruo tremendo, pero es posible derrotarlo. Los heroicos pueblos de Palestina, Yemen, Líbano e Irán están asestando golpes de verdad a este monstruo. No es invencible. Y Cuba se ha mantenido firme durante 66 años.

El pueblo cubano y la clase trabajadora y la mayoría oprimida de EUA tienen el mismo enemigo. En EUA, estamos siendo aplastados por un sistema que beneficia a una pequeña clase dominante. Las fuerzas de esa misma clase intentan destruir a Cuba. Tenemos que trabajar juntos.

Con educación política, las masas estadounidenses pueden comprender esto. Por nuestra parte, como activistas queer y trans de EUA, debemos difundir los logros de Cuba. Y debemos mantener la presión para que se ponga fin al bloqueo y se retire a Cuba de la falsa lista de Estados Patrocinadores del Terrorismo.

Cuba se mantiene firme

Antes de concluir, permítanme aclarar que sé que las instituciones de la democracia socialista cubana no son perfectas. Pero consideren esta observación del discurso del presidente Díaz-Canal ante la Asamblea Nacional el 18 de julio:

"Cuando se repasan todos los periodos de los 66 años de la Revolución en el poder, lo que encontramos, además de victorias, son desafíos tercermundistas, zancadillas enemigas y también errores y aprendizajes propios, frutos todos del afán jamás abandonado de conquistar y sostener la justicia social como aspiración suprema, en un contexto mundial completamente adverso, desde que dejaron de existir la Unión Soviética y el campo socialista.

"Si a pesar de todo eso la Revolución

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Book launch contrasts Cuban LGBTQI+ advances with U.S.anti-trans repression

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what we find, in addition to victories, are third world challenges, enemy obstacles and also our own mistakes and lessons learned, all fruits of the never abandoned eagerness to conquer and sustain social justice as a supreme aspiration, in a completely adverse world context, since the Soviet Union and the socialist camp ceased to exist.

"If, in spite of all that, the Cuban Revolution is standing and fighting for the possible prosperity, it is because of its authentic and genuine character. We are not an accident of history. We are the logical consequence of a history of resistance and rebellion against abuse and injustice that has very deep reasons to believe in its own strength."

I want to emphasize this phrase, "in a completely adverse world context." In the past 50 years, more or less – in the long phase of capitalism called "neoliberalism" – what we've seen is a global revolutionary retreat, with the imperialist bourgeoisie on the offensive. Most of the socialist camp was destroyed by imperialist-backed counterrevolution, resulting in a plunge in life expectancy in those countries. At the same time, the liberation struggles of Africa, Asia, and Latin America faced major setbacks following the high tide of the '60s and '70s.

In the imperialist center, even in Western Europe, social democracy is effectively dead. Unions have been beaten back. Almost everywhere, the gains of people's struggles have been reversed. And as I've said, with this global system in crisis – economically, politically, and ecologically – the trend is toward fascism.

But in that completely adverse world context, Cuba has stood firm. The Families Code shows that this revolution is still alive. It is still possible to gather the people's forces to advance that revolutionary process. That's the task of the new revolutionary generations here.

We must make a revolution in the U.S.

The mere existence of this workers' state is a light for people struggling everywhere, including for us in the U.S., where we have to make our own revolution. That is essential for us, for Cuba, and for the survival of humanity and all the other species on this planet.

That's the flipside of the system's terminal decline. Even though this period is dangerous, opportunities are emerging. Formerly colonized countries of the Global South are finding new ways to maneuver against a system that cannot tolerate sovereign development benefiting the masses. That's why the imperialists are against China, and Trump is attacking BRICS. But we know that overcoming capitalism is a prerequisite for true multipolarity, where all can develop in peace.

Moreover, today, the working class truly is global, and not just in the sense of being present everywhere. Our class all over the world is interconnected. That is our strength, and it's why we're the class that can defeat the capitalists once and for all. But we have to organize for it.

That ends my presentation,
thank you!#

Presentación de libro contrasta los avances LGBTQI+ cubanos con la represión antitrans en EUA

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Cubana está de pie y luchando por la prosperidad posible, es por su carácter auténtico y genuino. No somos un accidente de la historia. Somos la lógica consecuencia de una historia de resistencia y rebeldía contra el abuso y la injusticia que tiene razones muy profundas para creer en sus propias fuerzas."

Quiero enfatizar esta frase, "en un contexto mundial completamente adverso." En los últimos 50 años, más o menos — en la larga fase del capitalismo llamada "neoliberalismo": — lo que hemos presenciado es un retroceso revolucionario global, con la burguesía imperialista a la ofensiva. La mayor parte del campo socialista fue destruida por la contrarrevolución respaldada por el imperialismo, lo que provocó una caída en la esperanza de vida en esos países. Al mismo tiempo, las luchas de liberación de África, Asia y América Latina sufrieron importantes reveses tras el auge de las décadas de 1960 y 1970.

En el centro imperialista, incluso en Europa Occidental, la socialdemocracia está prácticamente muerta. Los sindicatos han sido derrotados. Casi en todas partes, los logros de las luchas populares se han revertido. Y como he dicho, con este sistema global en crisis — económica, política y ecológica — la tendencia es hacia el fascismo.

Pero en ese contexto mundial completamente adverso, Cuba se ha mantenido firme. El Código de las Familias demuestra que esta revolución sigue viva. Aún es posible aunar las fuerzas del pueblo para impulsar ese proceso revolucionario. Esa es la tarea de las nuevas generaciones revolucionarias aquí.

La mera existencia de este estado obrero es una luz para quienes luchan en todas partes, incluso para nosotros en EUA, donde debemos hacer nuestra propia revolución. Esto es esencial para nosotros, para Cuba y para la supervivencia de la humanidad y de todas las demás especies de este planeta.

Esa es la otra cara del declive terminal del sistema. Si bien este período es peligroso, surgen oportunidades. Los países del Sur Global, antiguamente colonizados, están encontrando nuevas maneras de maniobrar contra un sistema que no tolera un desarrollo soberano que beneficie a las masas. Por eso los imperialistas están contra China y Trump ataca a los BRICS. Pero sabemos que superar el capitalismo es un prerrequisito para una verdadera multipolaridad, donde todos puedan desarrollarse en paz.

Además, hoy en día, la clase trabajadora es verdaderamente global, y no solo en el sentido de estar presente en todas partes. Nuestra clase está interconectada en todo el mundo. Esa es nuestra fuerza, y por eso somos la clase que puede derrotar a los capitalistas de una vez por todas. Pero tenemos que organizarnos para lograrlo.

Con esto termina mi presentación,
¡gracias! #

Against blockade of knowledge

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a silence — or worse, a lie — that hides the fact that Cuba has been, in recent decades, a remarkable example of how a socialist process can expand sexual and gender rights from a logic of social justice, structural equity, and real democratic participation.

That silence must be broken. And works like this achieve that.

Thank you very much. #

The siege of Washington D.C.
Trump's police state goes live

By Gary Wilson

Aug. 8 — In an escalation of his authoritarian ambitions, President Donald Trump has ordered a massive mobilization of federal police and military personnel to patrol the streets of Washington, D.C. The move marks another step toward the consolidation of a police-state regime, with Trump openly threatening a federal takeover of the capital city and the deployment of the National Guard to suppress dissent.

Washington, D.C., is a federal territory (the District of Columbia) and is not part of any state. Under the Home Rule Act of 1973, it has an elected mayor and city council, but Congress retains ultimate authority and can (and regularly does) override local laws and budgets. Residents can vote for president, as granted by the 23rd Amendment, and are represented in the U.S. House of Representatives by a non-voting delegate. They have no representation in the U.S. Senate. Since 2000, standard D.C. license plates have carried the phrase "Taxation Without Representation."

A show of force

Federal officers from at least 15 agencies — including the Secret Service, Homeland Security, ICE, the FBI, and the U.S. Marshals — have been deployed across Washington, supplementing the city's 3,400 Metropolitan Police officers. At least 120 federal agents were on the streets Friday night, Aug. 8, with White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt warning that the operation could expand "as needed."

But Trump is not stopping there. In a series of statements, he has threatened to take over the local government and flood the city with National Guard troops. On his far-right social media platform, Truth Social, he declared:

"If D.C. doesn't get its act together, and quickly, we will have no choice but to take Federal control of the City, and run this City how it should be run, and put criminals on notice that they're not going to get away with it anymore."

At a press briefing Wednesday, Trump doubled down, stating, "We have to run D.C." — adding that this might include "bringing in the National Guard — maybe very quickly, too." When asked about repealing D.C.'s limited home rule, established in 1973, he casually remarked, "The lawyers are already studying it."

A long-planned power grab

This is not the first time Trump has sought to impose martial law in the capital. During the 2020 George Floyd protests, he pushed for military deployment, only to be blocked by Pentagon officials who feared the resistance of the troops, who were sympathetic with the Black Lives Matter protests, saying that the military should not be engaged in domestic law enforcement.

The pretext for this latest crackdown? A single attempted carjacking in Dupont Circle involving a former staffer of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), Elon Musk's now-defunct budget-slashing task force. Two 15-year-olds have been arrested, but Trump is using the incident to demand harsher penalties for juvenile offenders — part of a broader law-and-order narrative that ignores FBI data showing a decline in violent crime in D.C. over the past five years.

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, Trump's most openly fascistic adviser, took the fearmongering to grotesque extremes, claiming that Washington is "more violent than Baghdad, more violent than parts of Ethiopia, and parts of many of the most dangerous places in the world." The implication was clear: The capital, like a warzone, must be pacified by force.

Militarizing the U.S.: A broader agenda

Trump's actions in D.C. fit a disturbing pattern of normalizing military repression. Earlier this year, he deployed Marines to the U.S.-Mexico border. On Aug. 8, the New York Times reported that Trump has secretly signed an order directing the military to take action against so-called drug cartels and other criminal groups in Latin America and the Caribbean, immediately targeting the sovereign countries of Mexico, Venezuela and Haiti.

In June, 4,000 National Guard troops and a brigade of 700 Marines were deployed into Los Angeles following widespread protests of ICE Gestapo-style raids. And on his birthday, June 14, Trump staged a militarized spectacle in Washington, complete with tanks and warplanes — a not-so-subtle display of his authoritarian vision.

President Trump's July 18 visit to Ft Bragg to celebrate the birthday of the U.S. Army. Trump went there in advance of a major military parade planned for Washington, DC.

Meanwhile, ICE has launched sweeping raids in cities like New York and Chicago, seemingly designed to provoke clashes and justify further crackdowns. The goal? To condition the public to accept armed troops in the streets as a fact of life.

The January 6 hypocrisy

Trump's "law and order" rhetoric is steeped in hypocrisy. The most violent episode in recent D.C. history was the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection — incited by Trump himself. Five people died, and over 130 Capitol Police officers were injured in the assault. Yet since returning to office, Trump has pardoned the rioters while purging the Justice Department of officials who investigated the coup attempt.

The media's silence on this history is deafening. Instead of holding Trump accountable, the political establishment treats his authoritarian threats as mere rhetoric — even as he lays the groundwork for dictatorship.

A government at war with the people

Trump's actions reveal a regime in crisis, lashing out at a population that overwhelmingly rejects its policies. His approval ratings have cratered below 40%. ICE raids have met protests in nearly every city and even in the countryside. The June 14 "No Kings" protests saw over 10 million take to the streets in the largest one-day demonstration in U.S. history. The message has been sent, but it'll take action to deliver it effectively.

Trump is moving fast — and if the people do not act faster, the streets of Washington may soon resemble those of an occupied city. #

How can Jews stand and watch horrors of Holocaust in Palestine?

The U.S. and Israel are now reenacting with growing specificity what the Nazis did to the Jewish people

By Lev Koufax

Eighty-two years ago this year, a group of starving Jewish communists and socialists took up arms against Nazi German troops and tanks inside the Warsaw Ghetto. Facing starvation and deportation to the infamous Treblinka extermination camp, our Jewish ancestors and comrades made a stand. As a community, we should know better than anyone that the only option in the face of fascism and genocide is the resistance of the people.

Jewish fighters picked up any weapons they could find: handguns, bolt-action rifles, shovels, knives, and even furniture pieces and made war on the Nazi occupiers. Completely outgunned and outnumbered, lacking food and water, the Jewish anti-fascist fighters held on against overwhelming Nazi forces for an entire month.

Socialist activist and Jewish Combat Organization Commander Marek Edelman stated that the resistance found inspiration in not allowing "the Germans alone to pick the time and place of our deaths." This is the exact same brutal calculus taking place in the hearts and minds of the resistance fighters and all Palestinians inside Gaza as these words are written. In this modern holocaust, the Palestinians are clearly playing the role that the brave Jewish revolutionaries did in 1943 in Poland.

Sick and starving Jewish people could be seen in the streets in this October 1944 photo taken in the aftermath of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

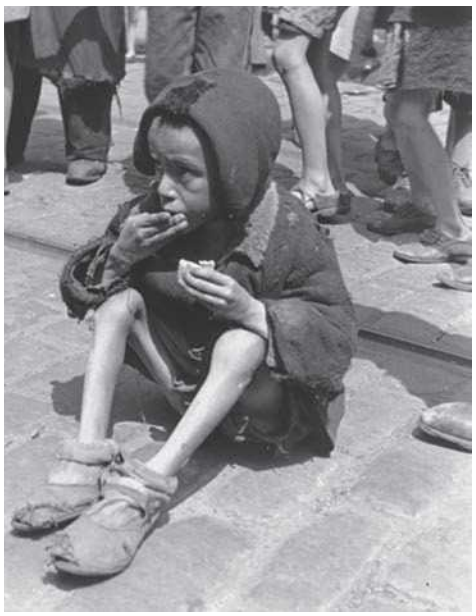
Children eating in a Warsaw ghetto street. Warsaw, Poland, between 1940 and 1943.

It should be noted that Marek Edelman, Mordechai Anielewicz, and many other leaders in the Jewish resistance were explicit anti-Zionists. One of Edelman's last public statements before his death in 2002 was in support of Palestine. Edelman specifically warned that "Jewish self-defence" was being weaponized to rationalize the oppression of the Palestinian people.

Even with this history, in this same modern holocaust, the Jewish community finds itself playing the role of the Nazi SS. This dynamic can further be seen in the U.S.-Zionist imposed artificial famine in Gaza. In 2025, the United Nations estimates that tens of thousands of children are suffering from malnutrition. In the last two weeks alone, at least sixteen children under the age of 5 have died of starvation. Again, the Palestinians play the role of Jews in our Warsaw Ghetto metaphor.

In 1942, a year before the uprising, a group of Jewish doctors performed a study of starvation inside the Ghetto. The public health and nutrition situation in the Ghetto at the time was stunningly similar to the present-day Gaza. Food could only be obtained through soup kitchens that were themselves the targets of the Nazi occupiers. Vaccines, antibiotics, and other crucial medications were all withheld from the Ghetto prisoners by the Nazis.

Their stated purpose was to track the impact of genocidal policies on a community to help future generations of oppressed people be prepared. To this day, it remains the most extensive study of starvation conducted. The 28 Jewish doctors who conducted it were themselves starving. All of these doctors but one died from malnutrition or were executed by the Nazis – but not until they completed and ensured the security of their work. This was certainly as much an act of resistance as the armed uprising in 1943.



An emaciated child eats in the streets of the Warsaw ghetto. Warsaw, Poland, between 1940 and 1943.

The same can be said for the Palestinian families who persist through artillery shells and bullets to seek out food at aid stations. Every step they take to try to feed their families is an act of human defiance against an inhumane U.S. regime.

Yet, even with these parallels, the Jewish community globally remains completely fooled on the issue of Zionism. We need to listen to our revolutionary ancestors. We need to listen to our humanity. The legacy of Judaism should not be one of enforcing imperialist greed. It should be one of resistance.

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.

Beirut, Nov. 3, 2023 – thousands of Hezbollah supporters rallied in the Lebanese capital in support of Palestine as the Zionist onslaught against Gaza intensified. Hezbollah has been a stalwart against U.S.-Israeli aggression in the region.

Hezbollah stands against genocide: Disarmament would be a disaster

By Lev Koufax

The U.S.-proxy Israel continues almost daily violations of the ceasefire in Lebanon. It is rare that a sun sets without Zionist forces carrying out a deadly air strike or artillery barrage against the Lebanese countryside.

Even so, the Lebanese government voted on Aug. 7 to approve the United States' proposal to disarm Hezbollah. The Shia Islamist political party and militia have been a steadfast ally of Iran and the people of Palestine since its founding in 1982. The events of Oct. 7 and the subsequent escalation against Gaza saw Hezbollah intervene militarily in support of a Palestine under siege.

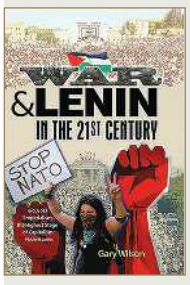
Hezbollah has consistently done what the government of Lebanon has refused to do: stand in solidarity with Palestine and defend its people against U.S.-Zionist attack. Without Hezbollah, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) would likely have free rein over the entirety of Lebanon, making the country completely subservient to U.S. imperialist interests.

The disarmament of Hezbollah would benefit neither the people of Lebanon nor Palestine. It would only benefit the continued U.S. and Zionist campaign to break the Axis of Resistance and isolate Iran.

The ability of Hezbollah to defend itself is not simply a matter of military strategy, but one of self determination. To this effect, Hezbollah PM Mohammad Raad posed the vital question: "To say surrender your weapons is to say surrender your honor. ... Who will guarantee sovereignty if the weapons are surrendered?"

The U.S. and its satellite, Israel, certainly won't guarantee Lebanese sovereignty. In fact, they will ensure the opposite. The U.S. wants Lebanon to be another Libya or Syria – entirely open for the plunder of its economic and natural resources by a small parasitic group of Western billionaires.

All revolutionaries worldwide must stand in solidarity with Hezbollah as they defend Lebanon, and the entire Muslim world, against imperialist onslaught. #



WAR & LENIN in the 21st Century

Vladimir Lenin wrote "**Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism**" in 1916. It is included in this book. It remains an influential critique of imperialism. As in Lenin's time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their own needs. Includes a report on U.S. complicity in the Gaza genocide and military profiteering.

Paperback or kindle at tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar

Desastre por contratistas en Acueductos

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.

El gobernadora de Puerto Rico ha declarado estado de emergencia y activó la Guardia Nacional luego de que miles de hogares se quedaron sin agua.

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Los gobiernos que han administrado este país, sobre todo, en los últimos años, han ignorado totalmente su objetivo principal, que es el de procurar el Bienestar Público. Y esto es, asegurar todos los servicios básicos necesarios para que el pueblo tenga una vida digna: principalmente, salud, vivienda y educación. Y que estén acompañados por una red complementaria de otros servicios como telecomunicación, agua y energía. Pero a medida que el proceso neoliberal profundiza la colonización, la corrupción que acompaña las privatizaciones también avanza de manera desmedida, sin tener niguna cortapisa dentro de las estructuras gubernamentales que defienda al pueblo. Es decir, en lenguaje boricua, estamos "algarete" es decir: fuera de control, desorganizado, a la deriva.

Esta vez, aparte del desastre de los apagones causados constantemente por las malas ejecuciones de las privatizadoras de energía, estas últimas semanas se ha sumado la falta de agua en muchas partes de la isla. En medio de una oleada de calor intenso y contaminación por los polvos del Sahara que cubren nuestros cielos.

Y recordemos que el agua ha sido declarada el recurso natural estratégico más importante para el planeta en este siglo XXI

Si bien la Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados que gestiona nuestros recursos hídricos no está totalmente privatizada, sí contratan firmas incompetentes por millones de dólares, para hacer las tareas que los trabajadores públicos experimentados, agrupados en la Unión Independiente Auténtica suelen realizar excelentemente y a menor costo para el pueblo.

Pero la incompetencia de esos contratistas de lujo han causado roturas de tuberías y malas operaciones que han causado interrupciones al no saber cómo manejar el complicado sistema de válvulas del sistema, privando así a miles de familias, incluyendo a personas de la tercera edad que viven aisladas en zonas montañosas donde el agua es determinante para su estado de salud.

Y mientras, el gobierno de turno sigue pagando a más contratistas que nada resuelven, y sí agravan la crisis al dañar el sistema de acueductos, ignorando la fuente experimentada de nuestros trabajadores públicos. #

¡Fuera la Junta de Control Fiscal!

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2016 – los manifestantes llevan una pancarta que dice, "junta control fiscal, esclavitud colonial." Este fue el año en que Washington impuso la Junta de Control Fiscal.

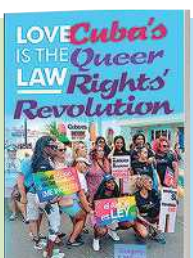
Desde que el Congreso estadounidense bajo la administración de Obama en el 2016, impuso una Junta de Supervisión Fiscal a Puerto Rico para obligarnos a pagar una supuesta deuda pública de más de 90 mil millones de dólares y dizque enderezar las finanzas del gobierno colonial y sus agencias, la economía del archipiélago en nada ha mejorado.

Al contrario, estos siete integrantes de la susodicha Junta que aquí llamamos de Control Fiscal, han saqueado al país a través de una serie de firmas consultoras y bufetes millonarios de abogados, que a su vez, han implantado tantas medidas de austeridad al pueblo, que vé cómo se hunde en la pobreza y la desesperanza al ver que su gobierno local, en vez de defenderlo, se une a todo tipo de agendas corruptas junto a la mismísima Junta.

En estos nueve años de Junta, los miembros han ido cambiando según satisfagan mejor o peor a sus beneficiarios, los bonistas. Esos bonistas que compraron bonos a centavos de dólar, pero que quieren cobrar más de 100 veces su valor original.

Pues esta semana, la nueva administración de Trump, que poco le importa las leyes y constituciones, despidió a cinco de los integrantes de la Junta porque decía que gastaban mucho y no rendían el fruto esperado. Lo de gastar, coincidimos, pero realmente sabemos que ese no es el motivo. Lo imponer mucha más austeridad y beneficiar a todos esos bonistas buitres que sí se espera es que los nuevos miembros que nomine, será para extranjeros a costo del bienestar del pueblo borincano.

Por eso, no nos queda más que exigir, gritar con todas nuestras fuerzas: ¡La Junta, a las ventas del Infierno! ¡Fuera de Puerto Rico! ¡Independencia y descolonización ya! ¡Fuera gringos del Caribe! #



Un libro contra el bloqueo del conocimiento: 'El amor es ley: la revolución de los derechos queer en Cuba'

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